

# AMIT RANJAN

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in English, JNU.

*Topic: "Voices from a Lost Grave: A Study of John Lang, the First Indo-Australian Writer."*

- M. Phil. in English, JNU. *Grade: A+* for the dissertation.

*Topic: "Vultures of Violence: Analysing the Ideology and Narrative in Amitav Ghosh's Writings"*

- M.A. in English, JNU.
- B.A. (Honours) in English, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.

## PROFESSIONAL HONORS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS

- **Fulbright Fellow, Scholar-In-Residence**, FIU. 2019-20
- **Fulbright Fellow, FLTA Program**, Florida International University, Miami. 2015–16.
- Awarded Alumni Excellence Award by Australian High Commission in India. Feb 2015.
- Selected as delegate for Australia-India Youth Dialogue held at Sydney and Melbourne. Jan 2015
- Australia Awards Ambassador, an honorary position conferred by Australian High Commission, to promote the Australia Awards fellowships. (2018, 2015, 2014)
- Recipient of **Endeavour Research Fellowship** of the Australian government. 2010.
- Recipient of **Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation Research Grant** 2009–10.
- Selected for Sangam Writers' House Residency, Dec 2010
- SARAI Urban research student fellowship. 2006
- Scholarship from St. Stephen's College in 3rd year for academic merit.
- Gold Medal from CISCE for scoring above 90 in every subject in ICSE (Grade 10 exam).

## ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor of English, CIET, NCERT. July 2020 -
- Assistant Professor of English, RIE Bhubaneswar, NCERT. Feb 2019- June 2020
- Research Associate (honorary), Florida International University, Miami. 2017-20.
- Assistant Professor of English, St. Stephen's College. July 2017-Dec 2017
- Assistant Professor of English, Zakir Hussain Delhi College, DU. July 2016-July 2017
- Instructor, Florida International University. Miami. 2015–16 (Teaching Hindi; and culture and cinema)
- Visiting Scholar, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. 2010. (Research about John Lang and lectures about shared history between India and Australia)
- Assistant Professor of English at Maharaja Agrasen College. (Mar–Jul 2015)
- Guest faculty at Centre for English Studies, JNU. (July–Dec 2014)
- Assistant Professor of English at Janki Devi Memorial College. (Jul 2013–May 2014)
- Assistant Professor of English at Sri Aurobindo College (Eve). (Jan 2012–Jul 2013)
- Guest Lecturer at Jamia Millia Islamia. Sep 2011–Feb 2012, Oct 2014-Mar 2015 (First stint: English; Second stint: Tourism Studies)
- Assistant Professor of English at Sri Venkateshwara College, Delhi University (Aug–Nov 2009)
- Assistant Professor of English at Gargi College (Jan 2009–Mar 2009)

## PUBLICATIONS

### PUBLISHED BOOKS

*Find Me, Leonard Cohen, I'm Almost Thirty.* (Poetry collection) Delhi: Red River, July 2018.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Kohinoor and its Travelogy: The Dialectic of Ownership and Reparations of an Artefact” (Principal author; with co-authors Suhaas Ramani, Aanchal Agarwal, Akshita Chembolu, and Manika Dhiman). Coldnoon: International Journal of Travel Writing and Travelling Cultures, Volume 6, No 4, Dandelion Issue. February 2018.

[https://coldnoon.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Kohinoor-and-its-Travelogy\\_The-Dialectic-of-Ownership-and-Reparations-of-an-Artefact.pdf](https://coldnoon.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Kohinoor-and-its-Travelogy_The-Dialectic-of-Ownership-and-Reparations-of-an-Artefact.pdf)

“A History of Syncretism of Khojas,” *Apollonian* 4:1-2, March-Jun 2017. (ISSN 2393-9001)

“John Tells Tales of Jenny: John Lang’s Feminism in an Age of Literary Chauvinism” in *Women’s Link* (ISSN 2229-6409). Oct-Dec 2013, pp18-24.

“Endangered Nilgai of a Campus,” in *The Equator Line* 23. Apr-Jun 2018. Pp 107-119.

“Of Falconers and Falcons,” in *The Equator Line* 18. Jan-Mar 2017. Pp 132-145. ISBN 978-93-83076-14-7 (paper about Moti Nandy’s football literature)

“The Four Beats of Char Bayt,” in *The Equator Line* 15 (*Liminality of Faith*). Apr-Jun 2016. Pp 137-145. ISBN 978-93-83076-11-6 (paper about a musical tradition in Rajasthan)

“Dust of Earth” – title essay, in *The Equator Line* 14 (*Dust of Earth*). Jan-Mar 2016. pp25-39 . ISBN 978-93-83076-10-9 (paper about issues of land in Indian literature)

“Meter Down: The Taxis of Tinsel Town” in *The Equator Line* 13 (*The Car and the Call of the Road*). Oct-Dec 2015. pp109-119. ISBN 978-93-83076-09-3 (paper about representation of taxis in Bollywood)

“Leonard Cohen, Find Me, I am Almost Thirty” in *The Equator Line* 12 (*The Life of a Song*). Jul-Sep 2015. pp106-116. ISBN 987-93-83076-08-6

(This article has been republished several times by online journals, and is considered an important article on Leonard Cohen. Following are some links:

<http://cohencentric.com/2016/03/06/25388/>

<https://www.leonardcohenfiles.com/ranjan.pdf>

<http://coldnoon.com/the-curious-case-of-a-canadian-crooner-leonard-cohen/>

“Religious Syncretism and Jewish-Muslim Dialogue in India and Beyond” in *Café Dissensus* Issue 21 (Jewish-Muslim Relations in South Asia) Jan 2016.

## CHAPTERS IN BOOK/S

- “Coining Power, Powering Coins,” in *Demonetization in the Detail*. (Ed. HK Dua. Palimpsest: New Delhi, 2017) ISBN 978-9-3826-2222-2
- Three chapters in ‘Gendered Nation’ course of MA in Women’s and Gender Studies (School of Gender and Development Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University - IGNOU). (2015)
  1. Migration, 2. Defining Diaspora, 3. Displacement and Exile (ISBN 978-81-266-6785-7)

## POEMS AND SHORT STORIES

- “Ruins of Carthage” (short story) in *The Equator Line* 20, Oct-Dec 2017.
- “Remembering Rabindranath Tagore: A poetic tribute by a bard fan” (poem) in *The Free Press Journal*. Aug 7, 2017  
<http://www.freepressjournal.in/featured-blog/remembering-rabindranath-tagore-a-poetic-tribute-by-the-bard-fan/1117103>

- “Remembering Those Days,” “The Calendar and You,” “The Counting Song,” “Susan Tells Me” (4 poems) in *Indian Poetry Through The Passage of Time* (ed. Mandira Ghosh), Authors Press. 2017. Pp 215-220
- “Malala Sunrise,” (short story) in ColdNoon. 28 Mar, 2016.
- “The Ghost of the Square Stone: Vidrohi” (poem) in ColdNoon. 10 Mar, 2016
- “Dhaka” (poem) in *The Journal of Poetry Society (India)* Vol 24, 2013.
- “Parallel Lines,” “Hesaraghatta Bar,” “To John Lang and Alice Richman” and “Standard Three” (4 poems) published in *ColdNoon* journal (Ed Arup Chatterjee). Spring 2012. Cinnamontea Press. ISBN 978-93-81542-37-8
- “Hesaraghatta Bar” in *Other Places – The Sangam House Reader Vol 2*. Sangam House, New York, 2013. (Eds Arshia Sattar, Rahul Soni and DW Gibson)
- “Abra Dabra Macabra” and “Once Upon a Rhyme” (2 short stories) published in *Le Zaporogue*, (ed. Sebastien Doubinsky). June 2012.
- “Counting Song” (poem) in *Babel’s Gate*, London. (Ed Richard Egan). ISSN: 2042-9533. 2010
- “I Thot” (poem) and “Parallel Lines” (poem); Muse India online poetry journal. 2006. Issue 8.

### RECENT BOOK REVIEWS

- “Why I am a Hindu by Shashi Tharoor – Review”, Free Press Journal, Apr 15, 2018
- “Sound Odyssey by Gábor Lanczkor: Review”, Free Press Journal, Apr 15, 2018
- “Wings of Words,” – review of Dr Pemba’s novel *White Crane, Lend Me Your Wings*. The Sunday Standard. Mar 18, 2017.
- “To English or Not to English, That is Not the Question” – review of *English in the Dalit Context* edited by A.Uma – in *The Book Review* XXXIX:9. Sep 2015. ISSN: 0970-4175
- “Memories of Cracks, Cracks of Memory” – review of Naiyer Masud’s *The Occult*. Foretell journal. No. 31, July 2015. ISSN 2394-9244
- “Book Review – No Direction Rome” – review of Kaushik Barua’s novel *No Direction Rome*. Daily O, June 3, 2015.
- “A Sepia-tinted Graphic Novel” – review of *Delhi Calm* written by Vishwajyoti Ghosh in *The Book Review*. Vol XXXVI, No 1, Jan 2012. ISSN: 0970-4175
- “Reader Ridden” – review of *Reading Literature Today* written by Tabish Khair and Sebastien Doubinsky in *The Book Review*. Vol XXXVI, No 4, Apr 2012. ISSN: 0970-4175
- “Realism of Memory” – review of *Miljul Mann* written by Mridula Garg. *The Book Review*. Vol XXXVII, No 6, Jun 2013. ISSN: 0970-4175
- “Nuclear El Dorado Only a Promise” – review of MV Ramana’s *The Power of Promise*. In *The Sunday Standard*. 26 May, 2013.
- “Overdone Tale of Love” – review of Ratika Kapur’s *Overwinter*. In *The Sunday Standard*. Aug 30, 2013.
- “Storm in Tibet” – review of Kaushik Barua’s *Windhorse*. In *The Sunday Standard*. Feb 2, 2014.
- “Of Bomb Loves and Love Bombs” – review of Lara Fiegel’s *The Love Charm of Bombs: Restless Lives in the Second World War*. In *The Sunday Standard*. Oct 25, 2014.
- “Lessons and Stories Lost to History.” – Review of Amritlal Nagar’s *Gathering the Ashes* (tr. Mrinal Pande) In *The Sunday Standard*. Jan 3, 2015.
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### ARTICLES ABOUT JOHN LANG

- “John Lang, the lawyer who defeated the East India Company.” *Daily O*, Nov 24, 2014.

Rooh Aur Roohdar (Urdu article about John Lang). *Daily Milap*, Nov 2014.

- “John Come Lately.” *Hindu Business Line*, Dec 4, 2014.
- “Hashtagged Icon.” *The Hindu Literary Review*. March 1, 2015.
- “The Story of John Lang.” SBS (sbs.com.au) 21 Apr 2013.
- “Rooh aur Roohdar,” *Daily Milaap*. Nov 24, 2014

## RECENT POPULAR ARTICLES

- “Triple Talaq Case: Battle Won, War Continues,” in The Free Press Journal. Sep 3, 2017.
- “The legacy of Emily Bronte, the recluse writer” in The Free Press Journal. July 30, 2017  
<http://www.freepressjournal.in/featured-blog/birthday-special-the-legacy-of-emily-bronte-the-recluse-writer/1112338>
- “ Indian Concerns about nuclear trade deal,” in a set of articles under the rubric *Views from abroad: how is the world seeing Australia’s election?* The Conversation, 2015  
<https://theconversation.com/views-from-abroad-how-is-the-world-seeing-australias-election-60859>
- “The Romance of Silisehr” in *JetWings magazine*. Nov 2015.  
<http://snu.edu.in/pdf/Jet-Wings.pdf>
- “Silly Sher and Sweet Cat.” (Travel narrative about Silisehr Lake) in *The Millennium Post*. Aug 9, 2015.
- “Disco King Bappi Lahiri and His Charms” in Antiserious journal (antiserious.com) Jun 1, 2015
- “Meet the Samba: An interview with Macmohan” in Antiserious journal (antiserious.com) Aug 9, 2015,

## BROADCAST

Interview series with SBS Hindi radio of Sydney in which I was interviewed by KumudMerani about the unknown historical relations between India and Australia. 15 were broadcast in 2014 and 2015. Covered issues and people like: women missionaries in India from South Australia, John Lang, Alice Richman, Australian women who married into Indian nobility, Walter Watson Hughes, theosophical links, Nadia the Hunterwali of Bollywood, Bob Christo, camels that were imported from India to Australia etc.

## OLDER POPULAR ARTICLES

“Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan: Music, His Dargah” (essay on the late musician); *Outlook Magazine*. Sep 3, 2007  
“The Hidden Delhi” (A series of 12 essays on the unknown and fascinating things about Delhi); *MetroNW*. June 2, 2007

“I have no appointments for the rest of my life” – An interview with writer Vikram Seth; *Today newspaper*; Oct 21, 2005

“Trailing the trail of the Mahatma’s Murder” - (an investigative, historical essay about the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi); *MetroNow*; June 8, 2007

## ARTICLES BY OTHERS ABOUT MY PhD RESEARCH

Masih, Archana. “The Aussie Who Took on the British for Rani Laxmibai.” Dec 26, 2016. Rediff.com

Kumar, Yogesh. “Mussoorie Happy at Modi’s Lang Recall.” *The Times of India*. Nov 20, 2014

Mukherjee, Anahita. “White Knight.” *The Times of India*. May 30, 2010.

## TEXT FOR PHOTO ESSAY BOOKS

Wrote the text of Furqan Khan’s photo essay book *Ladakh the Pristine Beauty* (2014) and his photo essay *Musings from Mandu* (2016)

## **PRESENTED PAPERS, LECTURES and WORKSHOP**

- Two talks for National Translation Mission on “Translation of Upanishads in 17<sup>th</sup> century” and “Translation of Pseudo-Science into Colonizing tools in 19<sup>th</sup> century India.”
- Talk about Kohinoor diamond at Jindal Global University, Apr 12, 2018.
- Talk on 19<sup>th</sup> century Indian Writing in English, CIIL, Mysore. Dec 2017.
- Talk: “Creative Writing Today,” at Mata Sundari College, Delhi. September 27, 2017.
- Two talks –“Trance Lessons of the Translations of Dara Shikoh,” and “Appropriation of Darwinism by Phrenologists in 19<sup>th</sup> century,” at Translation Workshop, National Translation Mission, CIIL, Mysore. September 10, 2017
- Seminar: “Indo-Australian colonial connections, mid-19th century British Empire, and struggles with lives and times of revenants” Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay. Apr 6, 2017.

<http://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/en/event/seminarindo-australian-colonial-connections-mid-19th-century-british-empire-and-struggles>

- Conducted a workshop on research methods related to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century British empire and Australia-India colonial connections. IIT Bombay. Apr 7, 2017
- “A peep into waters deep: The cartography of syncretic traditions espoused in Dasavata of the Khojas, and in Nizari hymns,” at First World Khoja Studies Conference, Paris, Dec 2016
- Talk about mid-19<sup>th</sup> century British Empire. History Deptt, Presidency University, Calcutta, September, 2016.
- Paper about John Lang and 19<sup>th</sup> century British Empire, as part of a lecture series at Florida International University. Dec, 2015
- Paper – “Skull Smugglers and Pseudo Science: Phrenological obsession of the 19<sup>th</sup> century British Empire” at Western Indian Ocean Studies Conference at FIU. Nov, 2015.
- Lecture about Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan at FIU for students of Islamic Studies. Oct 2015.
- Lecture about media practices in India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the present day. IUST, Srinagar, India, Jun 2014.
- Lecture about two centuries of Australia-India links at University of New South Wales, Australia, for the course Australia’s Asia Context. October 2010.
- Paper about 19<sup>th</sup> century India-Australia relations at History and Philosophy Seminar Series, University of New South Wales, Australia. Oct 26, 2010.
- Paper at ISTR seminar series, University of Wollongong, Australia, about the life and literature of John Lang. Sep 22, 2010.
- Paper for the seminar series of Writing and Society Research Group, University of Western Sydney, Australia, about 19<sup>th</sup> century Australian influences in India. Sep17, 2010.
- Invited as one of ten participants for a research workshop with Prof Sugata Bose of Harvard University, at University of Technology in Sydney. August 2010.
- Paper about 19<sup>th</sup> century newspaper *Mofussilite* at International Research Workshop, University of New South Wales. September 2010.
- Paper on “Curious stories of John Lang” at IASA seminar at Goa, Jan 2010.
- Paper on John Lang at a conference on marginalities organised by Benaras Hindu University, India. November 2009.
- Paper “Nana, Lala and Alice’s Horse: Narratives to problematize the notions of memory and truth” at a conference on 'Memory at Truth' in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria (Oct 2009).
- *Paper "Elephant hanging by the tail: Conspiracy theory movies in India and USA" at a conference on 'Secrets' at Manouba University, Tunis. (April 2008).*
- Paper on “Sports Literature in Australia” in a seminar organized by IASA, New Delhi. (2004).
- Selected for a poetry workshop organized by Sahitya Akademi, at Jaipur in 2003. The conductors included Keki N Daruwala, Eunice D’Souza.
- Selected for a short story workshop organized by Sahitya Akademi, at Jaipur, in 2005. The writers conducting sessions were Mridula Garg, Keki Daruwala and Neelam Sareen Gaur.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

### Books

“Dara Shikoh: The Poet Prince” (work under progress, to be published by Juggernaut Press)

Translation of Miljul Mann, novel by Mridula Garg. Commissioned by Sahitya Akademi, to be published Dec 2019.

“Who the Duck is Alice: Forgotten shared stories between India and Australia” (Jun 2019)

“Canoodling in Camel’s Back: The spurious space of John Lang” (Niyogi Books, Jun 2019)

## FUNDED RESEARCH

“InterTwin – Australia-India Writers’ Juggle-bandi” and publication of the book “Who the Duck is Alice?” which is about unknown stories between India and Australia. Funded by Australian India Youth Dialogue grant, 2016. \$2000

“Voices from a lost grave: A study of John Lang”. Endeavour Research Fellowship to research about John Lang. Funded by government of Australia. 2010. \$24,000

Inlaks Research Travel Grant to travel to Australia to research about John Lang, and historic Indo-Australian ties. 2009-10. Funded by Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation. \$7000

“Memories and Narratives of Delhi” Grant for a set of short stories to imagine the idea of Delhi. SARAI. 2006. \$400

“Turbans of Rajasthan”. Research on the history, geographical diversity and cultural significance of turbans in Rajasthan. Funded by West Zone Culture Centre, Udaipur. 2012. \$1000.

“Narrative design for terracotta museum” – Project to create a narrative design for the terracotta museum at Shilpgram, Udaipur. Funded by West Zone Culture Centre, Udaipur. 2014. \$1500